

MERAMEC HILLS CHAPTER MISSOURI MASTER NATURALIST

ADVANCED TRAINING GUIDANCE

The goal of Advanced Training is to assist in maintaining proficiency, provide the opportunity to expand knowledge, foster Chapter esprit de corps and cohesion, and have fun.

The members of the Meramec Hills Master Naturalist Chapter must complete at least eight (8) Advanced Training hours annually. Additional hours are highly encouraged and greatly appreciated. Ensure you account for all of your completed hours and annotate them on your Monthly summary. Hours are to be recorded in the nearest one-half hour increment.

Advanced Training hours may be completed by participating in Chapter sponsored sessions, by individual initiative, or a combination of both. This flexibility allows for greater participation in the Advanced Training program by allowing for the individual member to select topics of interest and to better accommodate schedules.

The following table provides guidance to assist your selection of Advanced Training. If you are not sure whether a training session qualifies for Advanced Training hours, please contact the Chapter Advanced Training Chairperson for guidance. In some cases the local Master Naturalist Advisor, in consultation with the State Master Naturalist Coordinator, has final say in all decisions regarding Advanced Training hours.

CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING ADVANCED TRAINING CREDIT
The State Master Naturalist Program requires the following 8 criteria be used in evaluating the appropriateness of the Advanced Training. Additionally, the State requires that all training must meet criteria 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8 in order to receive Advanced Training credit.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promote continued learning and development of naturalist skills.2. Provide Master naturalists with knowledge and skills to work volunteer efforts.3. Direct trained volunteers toward specific programs in need of their service.4. Provide practical information and training for application in volunteer efforts.5. Take advantage of local partnerships.6. Provide Master Naturalists an opportunity to focus their interests in one or a few specific topics.7. Build on the core curriculum initially provided by the Chapter.8. Provide natural resource management issues and information applicable to Missouri.
ADVANCED TRAINING CREDIT HOURS

Examples OF Advanced Training:

- Attending regional or state (relevant) seminars, Web-casts, on-line courses, and workshops sponsored by Local, State and Federal Agencies (MO Dept of Conservation, US Forest Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, etc.), Colleges or Universities, relevant organizations and clubs (Audubon, Missouri Speleological Society etc.).
- Attending chapter field trips to learn new information
- Attending a Advanced Training program held during a chapter business meeting
- Attending a special Chapter sponsored Educational program (speaker, workshop, video programs, Special Topic discussions etc.)
- Naturalist guided tours of public areas (State Conservation Areas, State Parks, National Forest, Archeological Sites, etc)

NO ADVANCED TRAINING CREDIT HOURS

Examples of what **not** to count for Advanced Training:

- **Time spent traveling** to seminars, workshops, chapter field trips
- Performing activities or work on your own property